REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Third Report of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): Sir, I beg to present the Thirtieth Report (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

REPORT OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I beg to present the First Report of the House Committee.

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Lokpal Bill, 1985

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:—

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 6th August, 1986, adopted the following motion in regard to the Lokpal Bill, 1985:—

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do appoint two members of Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee on the Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against Union Ministers and for matters connected therewith in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri R. Mohanarangam and Sultan Singh from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

2. I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so appointed to the Joint Committee may be communicated to this House."

MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to move the following Motion:—

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963 (19 of 1963), this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, six members from among the members of the House to be the members of the Committee on Official Language in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Dr. Rudra Pratap Singh, Shri Sudhakar Pandey, Shri Ram Chandra Bharadwaj, Shri Indradeep Sinha and Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav from the membership of Rajya Sabha and one vacancy caused by the demise of Shri Shrikant Verma."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI (Maharashtra): Sir, on a point of order. You just mentioned that the statement about the railway accident will be made at 12.30 p.m. We are all concerned and the Railway Minister is

not here, he has gone abroad. Why has he gone abroad? He should be here, he has no business to go abroad at this hour of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. (*Interruptions*). In fact the Railway Minister immediately after making the statement, has gone to the place of accident. She will come back. In the meanwhile Government have got some information. (*Interruptions*). You have no right to say which Minister has to answer. It is not proper. It is open to the Government. (*Interruptions*). No, I am not prepared for that, it is not correct.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That proposition is not acceptable. (*Interruptions*) All of you please sit down. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, he is perfectly entitled to make this demand. Shri Madhavrao Scindia should be called back. He has no business to be abroad. Let him discharge his responsibility here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A very senior and responsible Member, Shri Vajpayee, has made...Will you please hear me? A very senior and very responsible Member who was himself a Minister in the Government has made a statement that the Minister should be called back. He knows very well that one Minister can substitute for the other in the same Department. Here there is one Minister of Transport who is in overall charge of the railways and she has made a statement. She has herself gone to the place of occurrence and she is coming back. So there is no point in saying that.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Why is Mr. Pilot making the statement. It is a railway accident.

SHRI K. MOHANAN (Kerala): This is not an air crash.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pilot will make the statement later. Now Special Mentions:

REFERENCE TO THE RISING PRICES AND HAVOC CREATED BY BRAHMPUTRA RIVER IN ASSAM

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to the price hike which is taking place in our country during these days. We have seen that a lot of poor people are suffering and the Government is taking no measures to protect those people from their suffering. In my State of Assam, the Brahmputra is playing havoc every year. Poor people are losing their properties and sometimes lives also. Thousands of people are becoming homeless in those parts. At the same time the prices keep on rising day by day. It is becoming impossible for the poor people even to live hand to mouth. Therefore, I draw the attention of the House to this and request the government to take some appropriate measures, some positive measures to control the prices and thereby save the lives of these poor people of the country. Thank you:

REFERENCE TO THE AWARD OF S. BASSEIN GAS PLATFORM CONTRACT TO SNAMPROGETTI OF ITALY

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR (Bihar): Sir, I want to bring to your kind attention and to the attention of this House and the Government the fact about the award of a big contract by the Government to Snamprogetti of Italy. Snamprogetti which lost to the Spie-Capag-led consortium in the race for the HBJ gas pipeline has been selected for the ward of the $ 138 million contract for the BPB gas process platform at South Bassein, overruling the calims of Hyundai Heavy Industry Corporation of South Korea, which was the lowest bidder. The Hyundai offer was $ 12 million cheaper than Snam's and its name had been recommended to the Finance Ministry by the ONGC. But the Finance Ministry selected Snam on